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INFO RUEHZM/GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL COLLECTIVE  
RUEHDE/AMCONSUL DUBAI 8314

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 000603

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR S, D, S/SRAP AND S/SEMEP  
ALSO FOR NEA/ARP, NEA/RA, G/TIP, AND DRL

E.O. 12958: 06/15/2019  
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PHUM](#) [KCRM](#) [KTIP](#) [ELAB](#) [AE](#)  
SUBJECT: UAEG DISAPPOINTED WITH TIP RANKING

REFS: A) STATE 61338, B) ABU DHABI 476, C) ABU DHABI 202

Classified by Ambassador Richard Olson, reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

¶1. (C) In giving advance notification of the TIP Report as instructed Ref A, Ambassador was told by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs (and National anti-TIP Committee chair) Dr. Anwar Gargash that the U.S. decision to downgrade the UAE in spite of ongoing and significant efforts to tackle the scourge of TIP was "unfair and disappointing." Ambassador also provided a heads up to UAE Ambassador to the U.S. Yousef Al-Otaiba (who is in Abu Dhabi this week); he expressed similar disappointment.

¶2. (C) Comment: As noted in Ref B, the UAEG sees its efforts against TIP as significant -- and improving. The UAEG is likely to publicly refute the "watch list" designation upon the report's release, and we should be prepared for a cold shoulder when we attempt to engage on TIP (fallout could impact other USG priorities as well). End comment.  
OLSON